

REMARKS

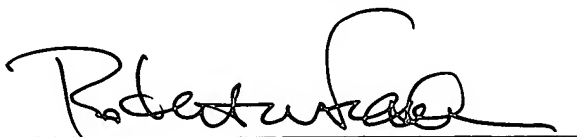
Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 22-33 will be pending in the present application, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/451,478 filed November 30, 2000. New claims 22-33 replace cancelled claims 1-21, which were originally-filed in the present divisional application, but were recently recognized as being inadvertently duplicative of corresponding claims in co-owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/451,478 filed November 30, 2000, for which a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due and Notice of Allowability issued on June 27, 2002.

Applicants submit that new claims 22-33 are fully supported in the specification and in the parent '478 application (see claims 17-41 of the '478 application, which were withdrawn from consideration as being non-elected in response to a restriction requirement imposed upon the '478 application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants request examination and allowance of new claims 22-33 submitted herewith. The Examiner is invited to telephone the applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 775-8123 if personal communication would expedite the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred in connection with this
Preliminary Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Fieseler
Registration No. 31,826
Attorney for Applicant

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661

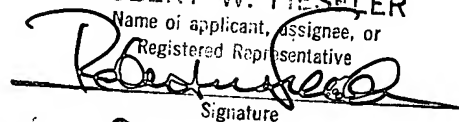
Telephone (312) 775-8000
Facsimile (312) 775-8100

Dated: September 20, 2002

I hereby certify that this is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service as
first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commis-
sioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C.
20231, on 9-20-02
Date of Deposit

ROBERT W. FIESELER

Name of applicant, assignee, or
Registered Representative



Signature

9-20-02
Date of Signature

Attorney Docket No. 12615US02
Serial No. 10/003,644
Stone et al.
Group Art Unit 1745
Examiner _____

APPENDIX A
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claims 1-21 have been cancelled from the present application.

The following new claims 22-33 have been added to the
present application:

5 22. A composite ion exchange membrane
 comprising:
 a stripped porous polymer film; and
 an ion exchange polymer at least partially
 filling the porosity of the film.

23. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the film is
 microporous.

24. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the film
 comprises a polyalkene.

25. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the
 polyalkene is selected from the group consisting of
 polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinylidene,
 polyvinylidene halides, and copolymers thereof.

26. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the polyalkene is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and ethylene-propylene copolymers.

27. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the polyalkene is polyethylene.

28. The membrane of claim 24 wherein the polyalkene is ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene.

29. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the ion exchange polymer comprises an α,β,β -trifluorostyrenic monomer.

30. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the film is at least partially impregnated with a liquid composition of the ion exchange polymer.

31. The membrane of claim 30 wherein the ion exchange polymer comprises an α,β,β -trifluorostyrenic monomer.

32. The membrane of claim 22, further comprising a solid particulate partially filling the porosity of the film.

33. The membrane of claim 22 wherein the membrane is substantially gas impermeable.